Executive Proclamation

State of South Dakota
Office of the Governor

Whereas, South Dakota was founded with hard work, perseverance, dedication to duty, and concern for one's fellow man; and,

Whereas, Roger J. Thomas attained a teaching degree from Black Hills State College, taught school prior to his military service, then attained a master's degree in history from the University of South Dakota; and,

Whereas, Roger began to preach as a lay minister in Murdo and entered the ministry at that time, receiving his first church assignment in Timber Lake, South Dakota, in 1953. While serving as pastor in Timber Lake, he attended divinity school in the summers and obtained his degree in divinity in 1957; and,

Whereas, Roger's career as a Methodist preacher required him to move his wife, Arlue, and seven children frequently, serving eleven different churches and living in several South Dakota communities, including: Timber Lake, Kennebec, Faith, Alexandria, Onida, Hitchcock, White Lake, Hurley, and Bowdle; and,

Whereas, Roger was a frequent counselor at summer church camps, served as evangelism secretary for the West River UMC District, and kept his interest in history alive by working on the editorial committee for the publication, "Circuit Riders of the Middle Border", served as chairman for the Archives and History Commission, and was treasurer for the North Central Jurisdiction of Archives and History; and,

Whereas, After Roger's retirement in 1988, they moved to Hurley in order to be closer to their children, and Roger served as assistant chaplain at the South Dakota State Penitentiary from 1989-1992, and also filled in for absent or vacationing ministers around the Hurley area; and,

Whereas, In addition to his distinguished career of Christian ministry, Roger has also been active as a Mason since 1959, serving as Grand Chaplain, served as mayor of Hurley, South Dakota, helped organize and revitalize senior centers, delivered meals on wheels, and worked with nursing homes, it is fitting and proper for the Governor of the state of South Dakota to recognize and honor Roger as a recipient of the 50th Jubilee - Life of Service Award:

Now, Therefore, I, M, Michael Rounds, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim July 27, 2003, as

ROGER J. THOMAS DAY

in South Dakota.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Sixteenth Day of July in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Three.

M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:

Chris Nelson, Secretary of State